

AMENDMENTS

Claims 11, 13 -17, and 19 are amended. A marked up version of the amended claims showing changes is included in Appendix A. New claims 27 - 31 are presented for examination.

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11. (Amended) A method of synchronizing data records stored in a host system and a portable data communication device, comprising the steps of:

- associating a first device synchronization parameter and a first host synchronization parameter with each data record stored at the host system;
- associating a second device synchronization parameter and a second host synchronization parameter with each data record stored at the portable data communication device;
- if a data record is updated at the host system, then updating the first host synchronization parameter, and transmitting a first update message from the host system to the portable data communication device; and
- if a data record is updated at the device, then updating the second device synchronization parameter, and transmitting a second update message from the portable data communication device to the host system.

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13. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the second update message includes the updated second device synchronization parameter, the second host synchronization parameter, and the updated data record stored at the portable data communication device.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

- receiving the first update message at the portable data communication device; and

if there is no conflict detected at the portable data communication device, then updating the data record at the portable data communication device using the information from the first update message.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
receiving the second update message at the host system; and
if there is no conflict detected at the host system, then updating the data record at the host system using the information from the second update message.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a wireless network for transmitting the update message between the host system and the portable data communication device.

17. (Amended) A method of resolving conflicts in a data record synchronization system that synchronizes data records between a host system and a portable data communication device, comprising the steps of:

designating the host system as the master and the portable data communication device as the slave;

simultaneously updating a particular data record at both the host system and the portable data communication device;

transmitting a first update message from the host system to the portable data communication device, the first update message including a first host synchronization parameter,

a first device synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record stored at the host system, and the updated data record stored at the host system;

transmitting a second update message from the portable data communication device to the host system, the second update message including a second host synchronization parameter, a second device synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record stored at the portable communication device, and the updated data record stored at the portable data communication device;

receiving the second update message at the host system, detecting a conflict has occurred for the particular data record, and ignoring the second update message; and

receiving the first update message at the portable data communication device, detecting a conflict has occurred for the particular data record, and updating the data record at the portable data communication device using the information from the first update message.

19. (Amended) A data record synchronization system, comprising:

a host system coupled to a host database, wherein the host database stores data records that have been modified to include a first host synchronization parameter and a first device synchronization parameter in each data record;

a portable data communication device coupled to a device database, wherein the device database stores data records that have been modified to include a second host synchronization parameter and a second device synchronization parameter in each data record;

a network coupling the host system to the portable data communication device;

software operating at the host system for updating a data record and for generating a first update message that is transmitted from the host system to the portable data communication

device when a data record is updated at the host system, the first update message including the first host synchronization parameter, the first device synchronization parameter, and the updated data record stored at the host system; and

software operating at the portable data communication device for updating a data record and for generating a second update message that is transmitted from the portable data communication device to the host system when a data record is updated at the portable data communication device, the second update message including the second host synchronization parameter, the second device synchronization parameter, and the updated data record stored at the portable data communication device.

Please add the following new claims:

27. (New) A method of synchronizing data records stored in a portable data communication device and at least two host systems, comprising the steps of:

associating a pair of synchronization parameters with each data record stored in the host systems, the pair including a first synchronization parameter associated with one of the host systems, and a second synchronization parameter associated with the portable data communication device;

associating two pairs of synchronization parameters with each data record stored in the portable data communication device, each pair including a first synchronization parameter associated with one of the host systems, and a second synchronization parameter associated with the portable data communication device;

updating a data record at one of the host systems;

incrementing the first synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record at the one host system; and

transmitting a first update message from the one host system to the portable data communication device, the first update message including the incremented first synchronization parameter, the second synchronization parameter, and the updated data record from the one host system.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the first update message at the portable data communication device;

updating the data record at the portable data communication device using the information from the first update message;

updating a second data record at the portable data communication device;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the updated second data record at the portable data communication device for the one host system;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the updated second data record at the portable data communication device for the second host system;

transmitting a second update message from the portable data communication device to the one host system, the second update message including the incremented second synchronization parameter for the one host system, the first synchronization parameter for the one host system, and the updated second data record from the portable data communication device;

transmitting a third update message from the portable data communication device to the second host system, the third update message including the incremented second synchronization

parameter for the second host system, the first synchronization parameter for the second host system, and the updated second data record from the portable data communication device;

receiving the second update message at the one host system;

updating the second data record at the one host system using the information from the second update message;

receiving the third update message at the second host system; and

updating the second data record at the second host system using the information from the third update message.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

designating the one host system as the master, the portable data communication device as a first level slave, and the second host system as a second level slave;

simultaneously updating the data record at the portable data communication device;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record at the portable data communication device for the one host system;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record at the portable data communication device for the second host system;

transmitting a second update message from the portable data communication device to the one host system, the second update message including the incremented second synchronization parameter for the one host system, the first synchronization parameter for the one host system, and the updated data record from the portable data communication device;

transmitting a third update message from the portable data communication device to the second host system, the third update message including the incremented second synchronization

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parameter for the second host system, the first synchronization parameter for the second host system, and the updated data record from the portable data communication device;

receiving the first update message at the portable data communication device;

updating the data record at the portable data communication device using the information from the first update message to generate a twice updated data record;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the second updated data record at the portable data communication device for the second host system to generate a twice incremented second synchronization parameter associated with the twice updated data record at the portable data communication device for the second host system;

transmitting a fourth update message from the portable data communication device to the second host system, the fourth update message including the twice incremented second synchronization parameter for the second host system, the first synchronization parameter for the second host system, and the twice updated data record from the portable data communication device;

receiving the second update message at the one host system, detecting that a conflict has occurred for the data record, and ignoring the second update message;

receiving the third update message at the second host system;

updating the data record at the second host system using the information from the third update message;

receiving the fourth update message at the second host system; and

updating the data record at the second host system using the information from the fourth update message.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

designating the portable data communication device as master and the one host system and the second host system as slaves;

simultaneously updating the data record at the portable data communication device;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record at the portable data communication device for the one host system;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record at the portable data communication device for the second host system;

transmitting a second update message from the portable data communication device to the one host system, the second update message including the incremented second synchronization parameter for the one host system, the first synchronization parameter for the one host system, and the updated data record from the portable data communication device;

transmitting a third update message from the portable data communication device to the second host system, the third update message including the incremented second synchronization parameter for the second host system, the first synchronization parameter for the second host system, and the updated data record from the portable data communication device;

receiving the first update message at the portable data communication device, detecting that a conflict has occurred for the data record, and ignoring the first update message;

receiving the second update message at the one host system;

updating the data record at the one host system using the information from the second update message;

receiving the third update message at the second host system; and

updating the data record at the second host system using the information from the third update message.

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31. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:
designating the one host system as the master, the portable data communication device as a first level slave, and the second host system as a second level slave;
simultaneously updating the data record at the second host system;
incrementing the first synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record at the second host system;

transmitting a second update message from the second host system to the portable data communication device, the second update message including the incremented first synchronization parameter, the second synchronization parameter, and the updated data record from the second host system;

receiving the first update message at the portable data communication device;

updating the data record at the portable data communication device using the information from the first update message;

incrementing the second synchronization parameter associated with the updated data record at the portable data communication device for the second host system;

transmitting a third update message from the portable data communication device to the second host system, the fourth update message including the incremented second synchronization parameter for the second host system, the first synchronization parameter for the second host system, and the updated data record from the portable data communication device;

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receiving the second update message at the portable data communication device, detecting that a conflict has occurred for the data record, and ignoring the second update message;
receiving the third update message at the second host system; and
updating the data record at the second host system using the information from the third update message.
